REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the amendments made to the claims and for the remarks made herein.

Claims 1-20 are pending. Claims 1, 8-12, 19 and 20 stand rejected and claims 2-7 and 13-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1, 3-6, 12, 15 and 16-18 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendment may at least be found in claims 2 and 13. Claims 2 and 13 have been cancelled.

Applicant thanks the examiner for his indication of allowable subject matter in claims 2-7 and 13-18, and has amended independent claims 1 and 12 to include the subject matter recited in claims 2 and 13, respectively. Applicant, accordingly, believes that the amendments made to claims 1 and 12 are consistent with the examiner's indication of allowable subject matter and, hence, are allowable

Having amended claims 1 and 12 to include the subject matter of claims 2 and 13, applicant submits that claims 1 and 12 reflect the examiner's indication of allowable subject matter with regard to claims 2-7 and 13-18. Accordingly, the amendments made to the claims should be entered as the amendments raise no new issues and requires only a cursory review r as the amendment adopts the examiner's suggestions and places all the claims in an allowable form.

With regard to the rejection of the claims, applicant submits that the reason for rejection has been overcome. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

With regard to the remaining claims, these claims depend from an allowable base claim and are allowable by virtue of their dependency upon an allowable base claim.

Amendment After Final Rejection Serial No. 09/729,748

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that all the present spans are patentable in view of the cited references. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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(Signature and Date)